



**U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
Southern District of Georgia**

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December 3, 2020

David J. Smith, Clerk
United States Court of Appeals
Eleventh Circuit
56 Forsyth Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Re: *United States v. Winner*, No. 20-11692
Response to Winner's Notice of Supplemental Authority under
Fed. R. App. P. 28(j) and Eleventh Circuit I.O.P.-6

Dear Mr. Smith:

United States v. Jones, — F. 3d —, 2020 WL 6817488 (6th Cir. 2020), and *United States v. Gunn*, — F.3d —, 2020 WL 6813995 (7th Cir. 2020) are unconvincing. They ignore that Congress has given sole authority to define “extraordinary and compelling” reasons under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) to the sentencing commission, not courts. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 994(a)(2), (t). The commission has done so in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13 & application note 1. That definition is “binding” because substantively it “does not conflict with” either section 3582(c)(1)(A) or the constitution. See *United States v. Henry*, 968 F.3d 1276, 1282 (11th Cir. 2020).

Moreover, *Jones* and *Gunn* recognize that this issue, to the extent there is one, will be resolved when the commission addresses the matter. See *Jones*, 2020 WL 6817488, at *7; *Gunn*, 2020 WL 6813995, at *2. This essentially recognizes that, until then, there is no statutory authority for a court to define “extraordinary and compelling” reasons on its own.

Finally, as discussed at oral argument, even if § 1B1.13 were not “applicable” (as used in § 3582(c)(1)(A)) to defendant-filed motions, its definition of “extraordinary and compelling” reasons should still apply under normal statutory interpretation. Section 3582(c)(1)(A) does not define that phrase. To interpret undefined terms, courts consult similar definitions in closely related contexts. Here, the closest context is U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13. *Gunn* essentially acknowledged this. See 2020 WL 6813995, at *2 (“The substantive aspects of the Sentencing Commission’s analysis in § 1B1.13 and its Application Notes provide a working definition of ‘extraordinary and compelling reasons’; a judge who strikes off on a different path risks an appellate holding that judicial discretion has been abused.”). Where *Gunn* misses the mark is that the commission’s definition—which certainly applies to BOP-filed motions—should also be strictly applied to defendant-filed motions because there is no reason to treat the two differently.

Sincerely,

BOBBY L. CHRISTINE
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/s/ Justin G. Davids

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**CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

COMES NOW the United States of America, by and through Bobby L. Christine, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, and files its Certificate of Interested Persons and Corporate Disclosure Statement as follows:

Aaron, David C., U.S. Department of Justice Attorney

Barnard, Thomas Harold, Attorney for Appellant

Bell, Jr., John C., Attorney for Appellant

Chester, Matthew Scott, Attorney for Appellant

Christenson, David Andrew, Interested Party/Non-Party to Appeal

Christine, Bobby L., United States Attorney

Collins, Laura Elizabeth, Attorney for Appellant

Davids, Justin G., Assistant United States Attorney

Durham, James D., Former Assistant United States Attorney

Edelstein, Julie A., U.S. Department of Justice Attorney

Epps, Hon. Brian K., United States Magistrate Judge

Greenwood, Nancy C., Assistant United States Attorney

Grinter, Allison, Interested Party

Hall, Hon. J. Randal, Chief United States District Judge
Hudson, David E., Former Attorney for The Reporters Committee
for Freedom of the Press
Larson, Amy E., United States Department of Justice Attorney
Mannino, Katherine Cicardo, Attorney for Appellant
McCook, Jill E., Former Attorney for Appellant
Nichols, Titus T., Attorney for Appellant
Rafferty, Brian T., Former Assistant United States Attorney
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, The
Robichaux, Mary S., Assistant United States Attorney
Rodriguez-Feo, Carli, Interested Party
Solari, Jennifer G., Assistant United States Attorney
Switzer, Brett A., Attorney for Appellant
Weiss, Baruch, Attorney for Appellant
Whitley, Joe D., Attorney for Appellant
Winner, Reality, Appellant
No publicly traded company or corporation has an interest in the
outcome of this case or appeal.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that one copy of the foregoing letter has been served on all the parties in this case in accordance with the notice of electronic filing generated as a result of electronic filing in this Court on December 3, 2020.

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